

BOOK REVIEW

CHARLES M. ALLEN, KENNETH A. WILSON, AND HARRY H. WINTERS. 2011. **Louisiana Wildflower Guide**. (ISBN: 978-0-9718625-3-1, pbk.). Allen's Native Ventures, LLC, 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, Louisiana, 70656, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.nativeventures.net, 337-328-2252). \$30, 246 pp., 500 + color photos.

Louisiana Wildflower Guide is a welcome addition to the libraries of Louisiana botanists. Previously, professional botanists and plant lovers in Louisiana relied on the broader regional field guides for identifying local plants. With this publication, Louisiana finally has a dedicated field guide to its abundant wildflowers.

The book is divided into sections for monocots and dicots and then alphabetically by family and genus. Each plant gets a paragraph that includes a technical description with notes on habitat, parish records, and synonymy. Each species also has a high-quality color photograph. Those trying to identify and learn plants for the first time will appreciate the many charts provided to help narrow down your identification. For example, some of the charts included, list monocot genera that are annuals, list of monocot genera that are scapose, list of dicot genera with lavender flowers, and several other lists. This will lead the identifier to the index to find the page with photo and description. Because the authors chose not to arrange the book by flower color, like so many field guides commonly do, this is a nice format. Indeed, flower color can vary by species and among genera. Further, field guides organized by flower color can disassociate related plants. With the format of this guide, the user is more likely to narrow the plant down to the generic level, thus leading them to the section of the book where all the species of that genus are discussed. The book also contains color photos of various habitat types (marsh, prairie, swamp, pine forest), a glossary of botanical terms, and line drawings of many of the botanical terms.

As stated in the book's introduction, the authors have aimed to provide a guide to Louisiana's wildflowers that "... split(s) the difference between the technical and too simple." The book succeeds in doing so and I expect it will gain wide readership considering that *All About Louisiana Wildflowers* by Jan Midgley (2003) is geared toward gardeners and *Wildflowers of Louisiana and Adjoining States* by Clair Alan Brown (1980) is long out of print. I would recommend this book to anyone working in Louisiana and East Texas. It is small enough to fit in your backpack, but covers enough species to take it beyond a simple roadside plants guide.

—Kevin Janni, Botanist, SWCA Environmental Consultants,
3901 Arlington Highlands Blvd, Suite 200, Arlington, TX 76018, kjanni@swca.com and Research Associate,
Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 1700 University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76107-3400, U.S.A.

BOOKS RECEIVED/REVIEWS FORTHCOMING

ZSOLT DEBRECZY AND ISTVÁN RÁCZ. EDITED BY KATHY MUSIAL. 2011. **Conifers Around the World. Volumes 1 and 2**. (ISBN: 978-963-219-063-1 [vol. 1], 978-963-219-064-8 [vol. 2], 978-963-219-061-7 [vols. 1–2], hbk.). DendroPress, Ltd., Budapest, Hungary. (**Orders:** www.dendropress.com). \$250.00, 2 volumes, 1089 pp. 474 range maps, nearly 1300 illustrations, more than 3700 color photos, 9.25" × 10.25".

Stunningly beautiful!

MICHAEL WOJTECH. FORWORD BY TOM WESSELS. 2011. **Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast**. (ISBN: 978-1-58465-852-8, pbk.). University Press of New England, One Court St., Suite 250, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.upne.com). \$24.95, 264 pp., color throughout, 5.5" × 8.75".